

the WEIRD WORLD
of

JACK STAFF

BRITAIN'S GREATEST HERO!



image

5

\$3.50

the WEIRD WORLD of **JACK STAFF**™ BRITAIN'S GREATEST HERO



WRITTEN & DRAWN BY
PAUL GRIST
☆ COLOURED BY ☆
BILL CRABTREE



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I've been 'tagged' a few times now in a 'Facebook note', which is the 21st century version of the chain letter. Though without the threats of something 'unfortunate' happening to you should you break the chain.

The most recent one doing the rounds is '15 artists in 15 minutes'. The idea is that you list 15 artists who have influenced you and whose work continues to stick with you (in less than 15 minutes) and you then forward the list to 15 other Facebook friends. I don't usually respond to these kind of things (it just encourages more in my experience) but this is one of those questions that comes up in conventions and interviews so thought I might answer here...

So here, in no particular order, and with a few explanations, is my 15 in 15:

FLAG WAVING

Charles Schultz. Okay - I don't think I need to explain that one do I?

Mike Noble, Frank Bellamy, Gerry Haylock. These three artists were stand out artists for me in TV21 and Countdown, the key comics of my impressionable youth. Gerry Haylock was the definitive Doctor Who artist though by all accounts Jon Pertwee was not all that impressed with his work.

Francisco Solano Lopez (not that I knew his name at the time) who was the Argentinian artist behind such classic UK comic strips as Kelly's Eye and Janus Stark.

Steve Ditko, John Romita (original version) and Ross Andru. For me they are the defining Spider-Man artists. I don't think Ross Andru's awkward artwork gets the credit it deserves. It's worth mentioning that I saw all these comics in black and white as they were reprinted in the UK Spider-Man Comics Weekly.

Jack Kirby, mainly for the Fourth World comics he was doing for DC. Mister Miracle probably being my favourite. Or The Forever People. For some reason I was never that fussed for his work on the Fantastic Four when I first read it, though this may have had something to do with the fact that I was reading it in the black and white UK reprint comics and so without the colour it was originally drawn for. Black and white comics shouldn't just be colour comics without the colour.

Jim Starlin. His first run on Warlock is one of the highlights of Marvel Comics during the '70s - even though sales meant it had to be weaved through various other comics in order to be completed. Why isn't this available in a collected book?

Marshall Rogers (with Terry Austin) on Batman. Batman should always have long pointy ears.

Brian Bolland and Mike McMahon. Probably the two most radically different Dredd artists, but hard pressed to say which was the best. For me the best Bolland JD was Judge Death Lives. Best McMahon? The Fink. Or that one in the Judge Child where Dredd and co. get eaten by a planet. Also McMahon did some great stuff on Ro-Busters which tends to get forgotten about.

Frank Miller. Moreso for the first Daredevil run that he did - the sense of someone basically learning on the job and stretching themselves.

Dave Sim. It was his work on Cerebus which showed that you didn't have to have to be published by Marvel or DC to do a comic book. And his extensive use of blacks which showed, if you were really clever, you didn't have to draw backgrounds.

And as a bonus round question, my single most favourite comic? Doctor Strange 55 by Roger Stern and Mike Golden. Stephen Strange looked inside his Sanctum Sanctorum and going ever so slightly bonkers. Or is he? If I could only keep one single comic, this would be it.

I'm probably going to kick myself in 10 minutes time for leaving someone off, but there, for better or worse, is my definitive list. At least until next time. Now all you have to do is make your own list of 15 artists and send copies to 15 friends. After all, you don't want to have anything 'unfortunate' happen to you now, do you?

ORIGINAL ART FOR SALE

Single pages of the original black and white art from Jack Staff are available at £75UK/\$150US each. Covers are £150UK/\$300US each. Prices include postage and packing. Contact me by email if you want to check the availability or reserve a particular page. Cheques payable to Paul Grist


DANCING ELEPHANT PRESS

P.O. Box 104
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ENGLAND



AND IN THOSE
FINAL DAYS THERE
WILL BE A CHAMPION.

SOMEONE WHO WILL
BE ABLE TO STAND
AGAINST THE EVIL
THAT WOULD DESTROY
EVERYTHING.



WHEN THAT MOMENT
CAME THERE WAS
NO ONE WHO COULD
STAND AGAINST HIM.

AND EVERYTHING
WAS DESTROYED.

WOAH!
HOLD
IT!

WHAT
HAPPENED
THERE? ONE
MINUTE BECKY
BURDOCK COMES
CHARGING IN
LIKE BOUDICA
...

THE
NEXT, MY
HEAD'S THE
FILLING IN
A ROCK
SAND-
WICH

I'LL
TELL YOU
WHAT
HAPPENED
...

WE
JUST
LOST.

AND IT'S
ALL YOUR
FAULT.

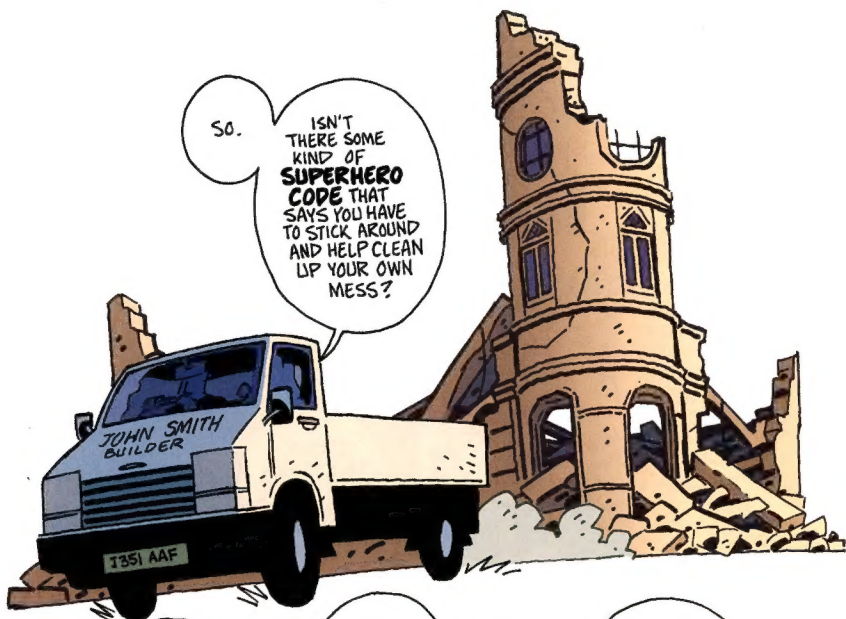




HELP!
HELP!

cough
cough

CAN
ANYONE
HEAR
ME?



SO.

ISN'T THERE SOME
KIND OF
**SUPERHERO
CODE** THAT
SAYS YOU HAVE
TO STICK AROUND
AND HELP CLEAN
UP YOUR OWN
MESS?

COMMANDER
HAWKES IS
GETTING MEDICAL
ATTENTION.
TOM-TOM THE
ROBOT MAN IS
HELPING WITH
THE CLEAR UP.
I HAVE SOME
THING ELSE
TO DO.

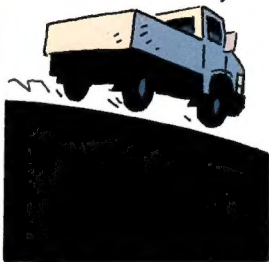
HAVE
YOU EVER
CONSIDERED
A JOB IN
DEMOLITION?

SINCE
I'VE KNOWN
YOU, YOU
SEEM TO SPEND
MORE TIME DOING
THAT THAN
CONSTRUCTION.

RIGHT
NOW, CAREER
CHANGE ISN'T
TOP OF MY LIST
OF THINGS
TO DO.

I NEED TO FIND
OUT WHO'S BEEN
TRAMPLING AROUND
INSIDE MY HEAD
TRYING TO MAKE
ME **FORGET** WHO
OR WHAT I AM

...



"IDON'T GET IT..."

"I WAS HERE, JUST
YESTERDAY AFTER-
NOON, SORTING THE
PAPERWORK,
PAYING THE BILLS."

I WAKE UP
THIS MORNING
AND I'VE LOST
THREE WEEKS
WORK - AND GOT
THREE WEEKS
MORE PAPER
WORK AND
BILLS!

YOU ALSO
FORGOT ME
AND THE WHOLE
JACK STAFF
THING
...

OFFICE

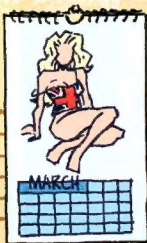
SURELY
THIS IS ALL
PART OF THE
SAME THING,
WHATEVER
THAT IS.

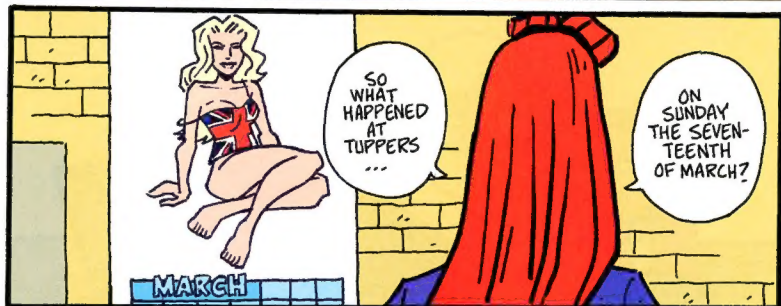
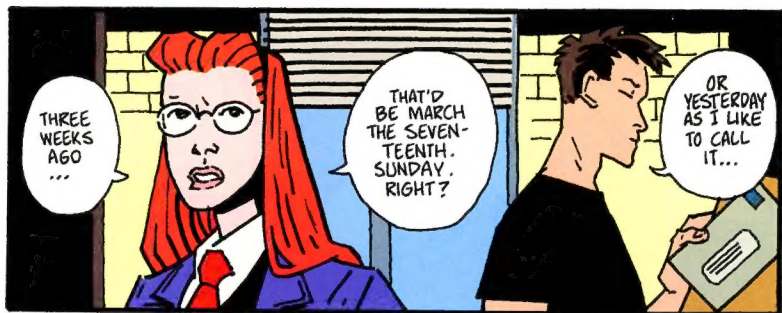
THIS
ISN'T
THAT.

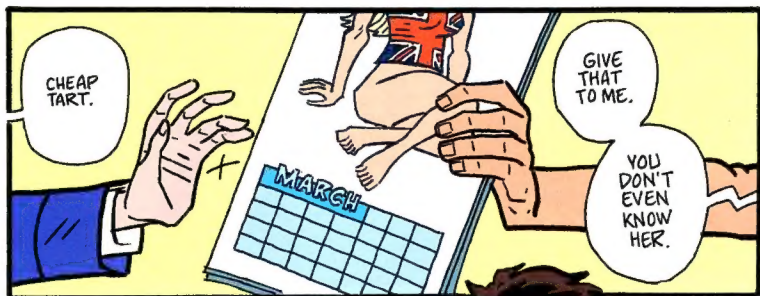
THIS IS
DIFFERENT.
THIS
ISN'T A
GAP
...

IT'S LIKE
THE LAST
THREE WEEKS
NEVER
HAPPENED
...

?











OKAY.

THIS
ISN'T GOOD.
THIS ISN'T
SUPPOSED
TO HAPPEN.

LISTEN,
I KNOW
WE'RE HAVING
TO THINK
ON OUR
FEET
HERE

BUT
TACTICALLY
RUNNING INTO
AN ENCLOSED
AREA (LIKE A
CAVE) TO ESCAPE
AN ONCOMING
ENEMY IS
NEVER A
GOOD IDEA.

CAN'T
YOU JUST
ZAP
US BACK TO
OUR PROPER
TIME?

MY
HOPPER
NEEDS A
LITTLE
MORE TIME
TO RE-
CHARGE.

HOW
MUCH
TIME?



ABOUT
FOUR
MINUTES
...

WE
JUST
NEED TO
KEEP OUT
OF HIS

THE
TIME
HOPPER!
I DROPPED
IT!



DON'T
WORRY.

I
ALWAYS
CARRY A
TORCH.



WHAAAY



K
THUD




K
THUD

OUCH!

NUTS!
I CAN'T
FIND
IT...

WHAT?





BUMEY
-IT'S LIKE
SOMEONE'S
BUILT THEIR
VERY OWN
BATCAVE
HERE.

THERE'S
A MAZE
OF TUNNELS
AND CAVES
RUNNING
BENEATH
CASTLETOWN.

YOU
COULD
HIDE AN
ARMY DOWN
HERE IF
YOU WANTED
TO.



LOOK!
OVER
HERE
...

THAT'S
THE
SWORD
THAT BECKY
HAD, ISN'T
IT?

WHAT
DID YOU
CALL IT? THE
SWORD OF
DESTRUCTION?

THE
SWORD OF
DEVASTATION

...

SOMETHING
HAPPENS, OR
RATHER HAPPENED
IN YOUR TIME
LINE TO DISRUPT
THE PATH OF
THE FUTURE.

WE NEED
TO PUT THAT
RIGHT
OTHERWISE
EVERYTHING
UNRAVELS.

LOOK -
IF THIS IS
THE SWORD
OF DEVAST-
ATION

...

THEN
WHY DON'T
I JUST USE
IT AGAINST
THAT
GUY?

"I WOULDN'T
ADVISE IT..."

IT'S CALLED THAT
BECAUSE IT CAUSES
THE DEATH OF ANY
ONE WHO USES IT.
RIGHT NOW I NEED
YOU ALIVE IF WE'RE
GOING TO SORT THIS
MESS OUT.

JUST
YOU AND ME
AGAINST AN
UNSTOPPABLE
UNBEATABLE
**KILLING
MACHINE**

...

KTHUD

AND NOW
HE'S RIGHT
BEHIND ME,
ISN'T HE?





OKAY.
HOW ARE
YOU DOING
BACK
THERE?

I'M
FINE.
DON'T
WORRY.

MY
HAIR'S
A BIT
MESSED.
THAT'S
ALL.

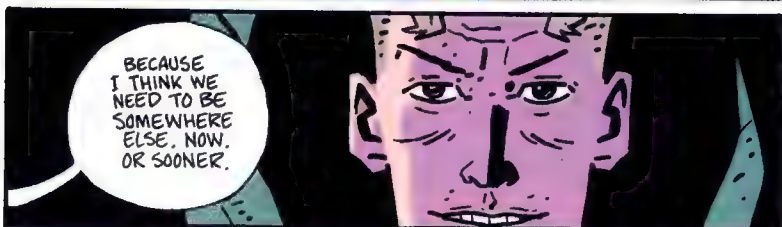
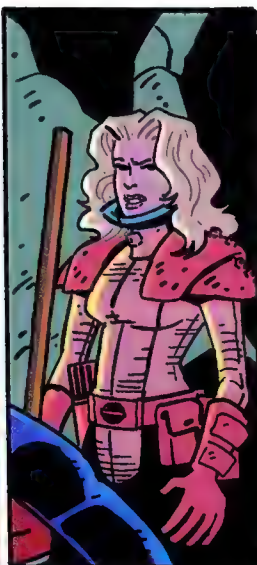


YOU?



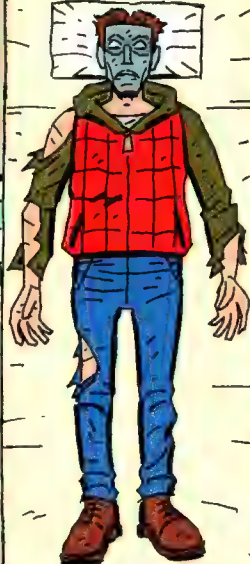
WHAT?
DON'T TELL
ME YOU
HADN'T
FIGURED
IT OUT.

WHY'D
Y'THINK THEY
CALL ME
**CALENDAR
GIRL?**





CASTLETOWN
ROYAL INFIRMARY.



LUCKIEST
GUY IN
THE
WORLD!

WHOLE
BUILDING
CRASHES
DOWN ONTOP
OF HIM AND
ALL HE GETS
IS A FEW
SCRATCHES.

SO
WHAT'S
THE DEAL
WITH THE
MASK?

DON'T KNOW-
SEEMS TO BE
STUCK TO HIS FACE
SOMEHOW.

STILL, THAT'S THE
LEAST OF HIS
PROBLEMS.

LUCKY GUY.

AND I
SEEK THE
SWORD OF
DEVASTATION
...

TO HOLD
IN MY HAND
THE POWER
TO DESTROY
ALL WHO STAND
IN MY WAY!

I
WEAR
THE **MASK**
OF DESTINY.

I THOUGHT
THE ONE
CALLED
JOHN SMITH
WAS THE ONE
CHOSEN TO
WIELD
THE SWORD
...



I WAS
WRONG.

BUT
HE **IS**
LINKED
TO THE
ONE I
SEEK.

HEY!
I THINK YOU
OWE ME AN
EXPLANATION
...

ALL I
HAVE TO DO
IS REACH OUT
AND FIND
HIM...

THE
WORLD'S
GONE MAD!
THAT'S THE
ONLY WAY
TO EXPLAIN
THIS--



ONE DAY AT A TIME

LYNDA JONES





I'M
WHAT THEY
CALL A
**CLOCK
COP**
...

AND
WHY IS
**BECKY
BURDOCK**
WITH
YOU?

IT'S HER
JOB TO MAKE
SURE NOONE
MESSES AROUND
WITH THE
**TIME
STREAM**
...

THAT'S
WHY THEY
CALL HER
**CALENDAR
GIRL**
...

REALLY?
ARE
YOU SURE
IT'S NOT JUST
BECAUSE OF
ALL THOSE
PIN-UP
CALENDARS
?

"AND YOU, JOHN SMITH
SEEM TO BE AT THE
EPICENTRE OF A
TIME FLUX POINT

"A POINT OF UNCERTAINTY
WHICH, IF LEFT UNCHECKED
COULD CHANGE THE COURSE
OF FUTURE HISTORY.

"YOU KNOW THE SECRET OF THE
CHAMPION. YOUR STORIES
ARE BOUND TOGETHER IN
HISTORY.

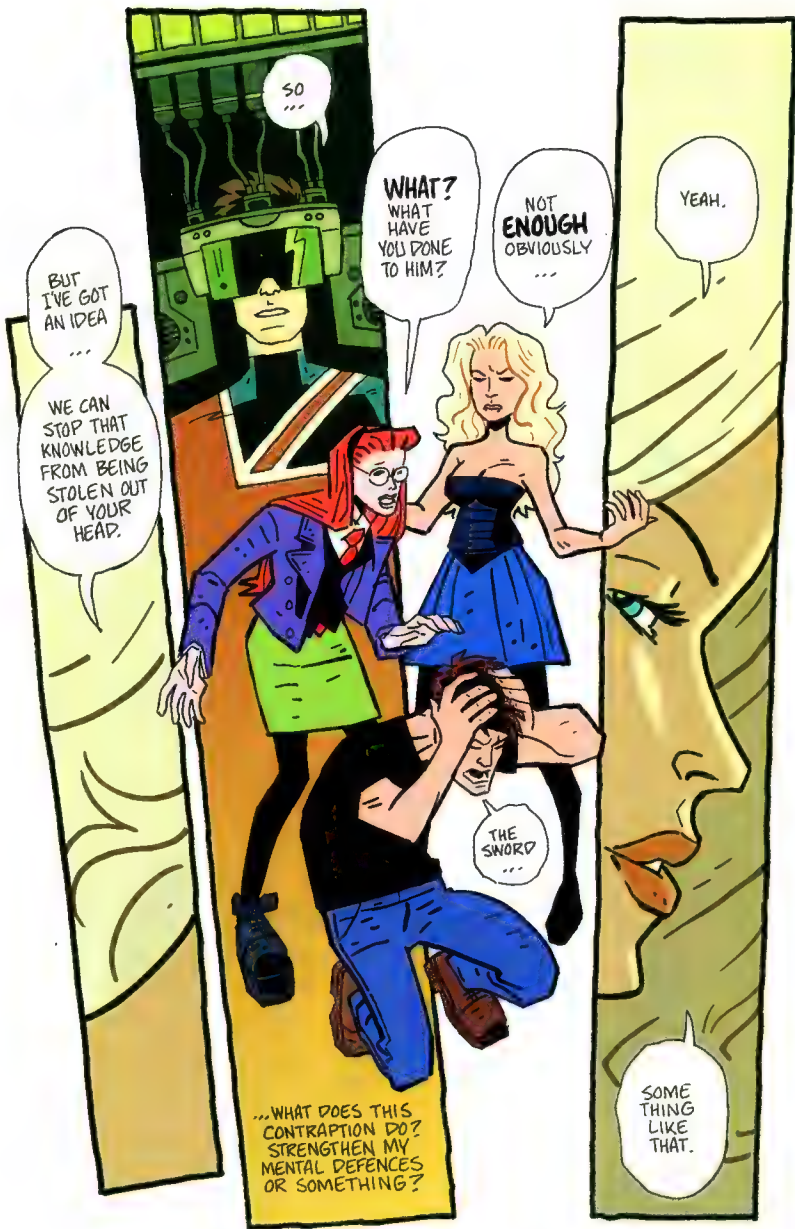
AND YOU WILL FIGHT TOGETHER
AGAINST THE DESTROYER OF WORLDS.

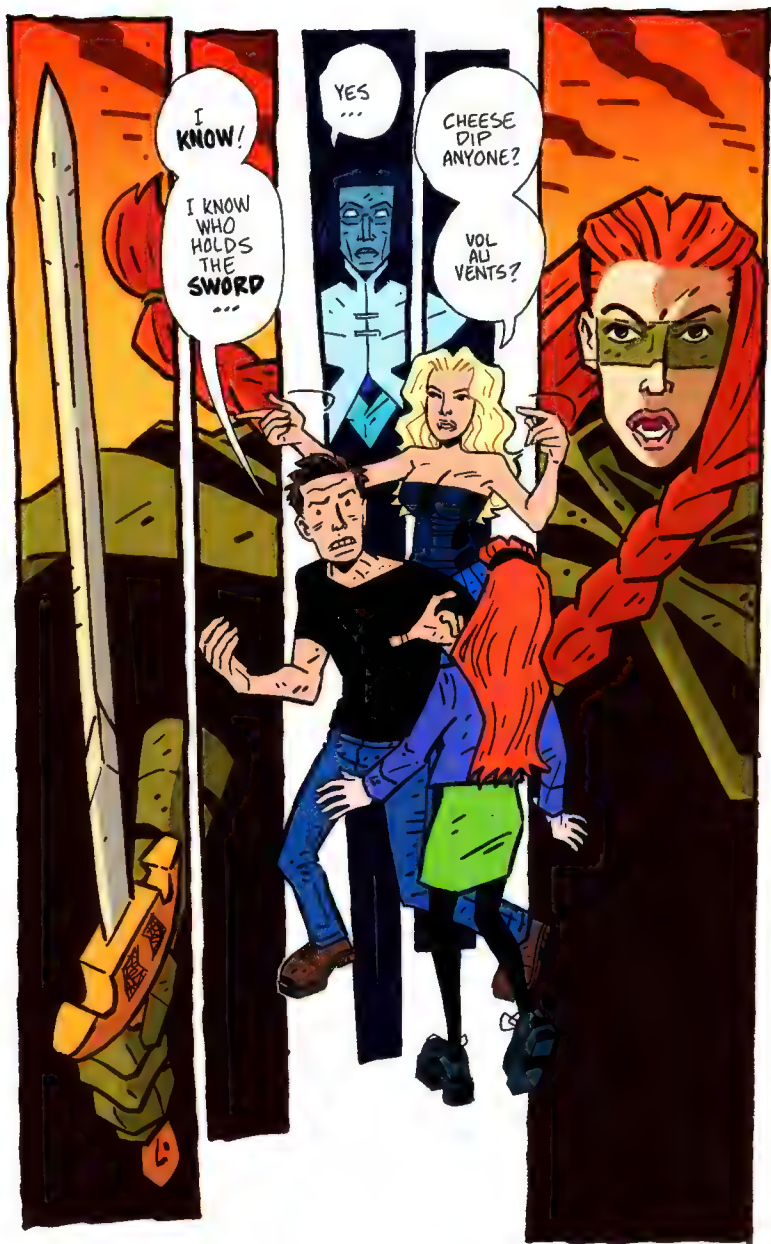
BUT ON ANOTHER
PATH, THAT
KNOWLEDGE
IS TAKEN FROM
YOU...

AND THE
CHAMPION
IS DESTROYED
BEFORE THEIR
TIME...

AND NO ONE IS LEFT
TO STOP THE **END** OF
EVERYTHING.







DON'T
WORRY-
THIS WON'T
HURT
...

-- I
KNOW WHAT
THIS HAS
ALL BEEN
ABOUT-
YOU!

IT'S
YOU
...

BECKY
BURDOCK.

WELL
...

NOTHING
THAT
YOU'LL
REMEMBER
ANYWAY.

YEARGH!!

I REMEMBER !

BECKY BURDOCK

BECKY BURDOCK

BECKY BURDOCK

I REMEMBER.

EVERYTHING.

WHAT?
WHAT
IS IT?

IT'S THE
END OF
EVERYTHING.
WE JUST
LOST.

AND
IT'S ALL
MY
FAULT.

AT
LEAST
WE'RE
AGREED
ON THAT.



NEXT ISSUE

IT'S THE **PAST**
VS THE **FUTURE!**

(WITH THE
PRESENT CAUGHT
INBETWEEN!)

STAFF POST

P.O. BOX 104, HIGHBRIDGE, TA9 4WD, UK • paulgrist1960@hotmail.co.uk

ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

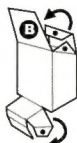
- 1) Using the back edge of scissors or exacto knife, score along dotted lines on all pieces.
- 2) Cut out all pieces along outer solid lines, and round "X" areas on Head and Body.
- 3) Carefully fold along all of the score lines.
- 4) One piece at a time, lightly spread glue only on the white tabs (marked with black dots). Do not glue the A panels on the Head or Body, or the B tabs on the Hands.
- 5) Slip white tabs into each piece.
- 6) Repeat until all pieces are assembled.

Rotating Head Assembly

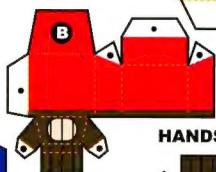
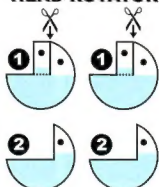
- 7) Assemble Clasp and Washer according to diagram at right.
- 8) Insert prongs of Clasp (1) thru hole in top Body Panel A so prongs point up. Put Head over prongs thru hole in bottom of Head. Put Washer (2) over prongs in Head. Apply glue to outside of prongs and press prongs flat against washer until they hold.
- 9) Glue final colored tabs into place.
- 10) After you have attached the Head to the Body, spread glue on both sides of top tabs (B) of assembled Hands. Slide arm tabs between top body panel and tabs at the top of the body (C).



HAND FOLDING DIAGRAM



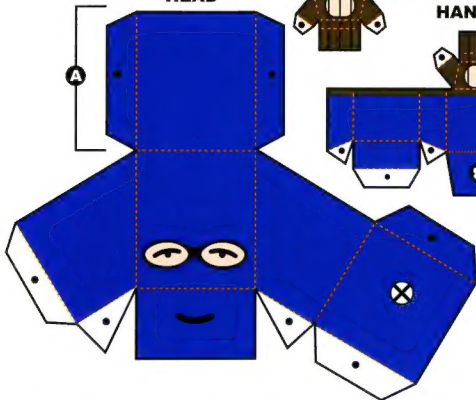
HEAD ROTATOR



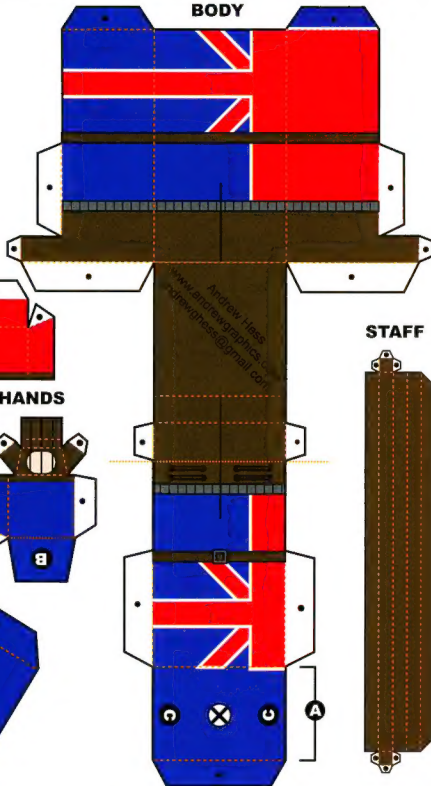
HANDS



HEAD

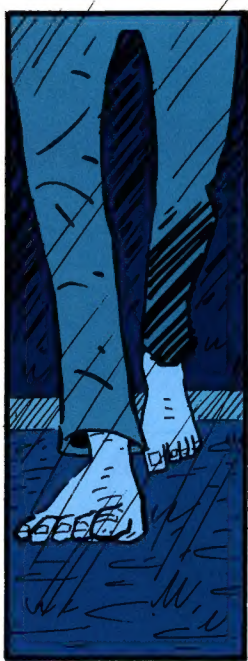


BODY



STAFF









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a Behry Scan

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